EARTH FIRST!

Brigid, February 2, 1981
Volumn 1, Number 3

ED ABBEY, JOHNNY SAGEBRUSH TO BE AT SPRING EQUINOX

The EARTH FIRST! Spring Equinox Celebration at Glen Canyon Dam is shaping up to be the conservation event of the year (at least for the month of March).

This celebration has something for all us us:

• Celebrating -- Music by the mysterious shit-kicking cowboy, Johnny Sagebrush, as well as other musicians. (Be sure to bring your instruments to join in the pickin' and grinnin'.) Words by Ed Abbey and EARTH FIRST! organizers. A celebration of the Equinox and Full Moon by our friends in the Craft. A bar-be-que and beer bust (we provide the fire and grill; you provide your own meat, beans, and booze). The companionship of wilderness crazies and eco-radicals from all over the country. (Don't forget the effect of a full moon on romance!)

• Strategizing -- Meet the other folks in EARTH FIRST! Talk about various EARTH FIRST! issues, make plans, organize, etc. etc. (See EF! committees article.)

• Action -- There will be a special guest appearance from Secretary of the Interior James "Rape and Run" Watt to accept an EARTH FIRST! award as our Membership Chairman, the launching of our petition campaign to dismantle Glen Canyon Dam, and other fun and games.

The EARTH FIRST! SPRING EQUINOX CELEBRATION will last from Friday, March 20, to Sunday, March 22. If you can, arrive on Thursday night. The meeting and camping place will be at Lone Rock in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (seven and a half miles northwest of the dam on US 89, just over the Utah line). There is plenty of room, trashcans, and johns. Bring sleeping bags, tents, camping equipment, food, booze, etc. The weather should be moderately warm, but we can't guarantee it. Take a week off, and go backpacking in the canyon country of southern Utah or nothern Arizona after the celebration. Cross your fingers that there may be snow near Flagstaff for cross-country skiing.

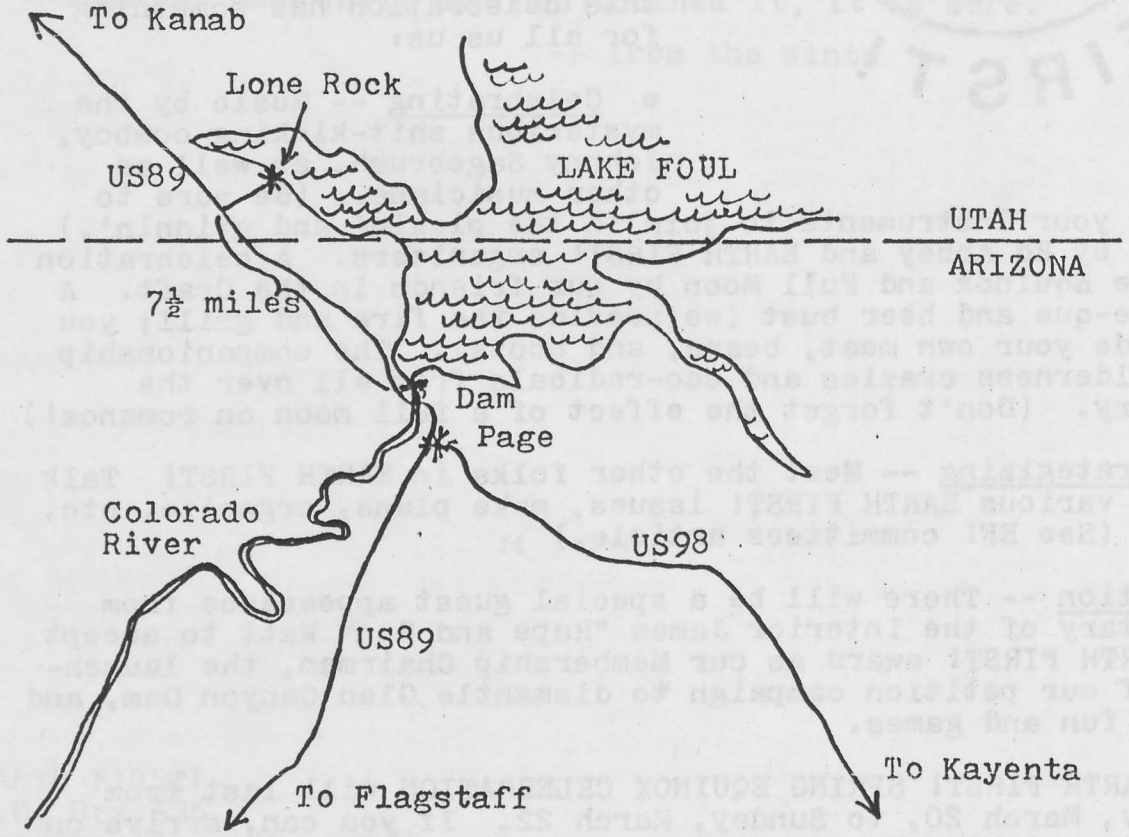
(Continued)

Contact BLM in Utah (136 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84111) or Arizona (2400 Valley Bank Center, Phoenix, AZ 85073) for their maps of WSAs to get good ideas for hiking. Encourage others in your area to come and take part!

For information on the celebration and to arrange car pooling, get in touch with:

Dave Foreman - 1802 Sun Court, Rio Rancho, NM 87124 (505)898-5468
Susan Morgan - P.O. Box 536, Breckenridge, CO 80424 (303)453-2669
Howie Wolke - P.O. Box 2348, Jackson, WY 83001 (307)733-5343

MAP TO LONE ROCK



EDITORIAL
"THE PLURALISM OF EARTH FIRST!"

In diversity there is strength. That's an old ecological maxim, but it holds true for organizations as well as for ecosystems. And when you toss together the individualists and interesting characters in EARTH FIRST! (our detractors would say oddballs, misfits, psychopaths, and misanthropes) you get diversity. Indeed there will be few of us who are in complete agreement.
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But this pluralism is healthy -- and inducive to greater creativity and energy. The people united in EARTH FIRST! are linked by our common love for the Earth -- and by our belief that Earth must come first.

But beyond that...well, we have bouncers in stomp bars and street poets; vegetarians and guys who eat raw steaks; witches and athiests and whatever; those who are macho and those who are sensitive, and some who are both; Gandhis and Haydukes, Republicans and Democrats and those who think the difference is as important as that between Charmin and Scotts; pacifists and those who think that turning the cheek is a good way to get a sore face -- the contrasts could go on and on.

Let's simply say that the vigor and passion and heartfelt basic premise of EARTH FIRST! appeals to a wide variety of wilderfreaks. We're glad of that. Let's all recognize our pluralism and be tolerant of it. And if you think another EF! member is obnoxious -- well, shucks, I've even been thought obnoxious by a few people.

-- Dave Foreman

All saints revile her, and all sober men
Ruled by the God Apollo's golden mean --
In scorn of which I sailed to find her
In distant regions likeliest to hold her
Whom I desired above all things to know,
Sister of the mirage and echo.

It was a virtue not to stay,
To go my headstrong and heroic way
Seeking her out at the volcano's head,
Among pack ice, or where the track had faded
Beyond the cavern of the seven sleepers:
Whose broad white brow was white as any leper's,
Whose eyes were blue, with rowan-berry lips,
With hair curled honey-coloured to white hips.

Green sap of Spring in the young wood a-stir
Will celebrate the Mountain Mother,
And every song-bird shout awhile for her;
But I am gifted, even in November
Rawest of seasons, with so huge a sense
Of her nakedly worn magnificence
I forget cruelty and past betrayal,
Careless of where the next bright bolt may fall.

-- Robert Graves

Anonymous, -->
Hobbs, NM

Dear Editor:

I've read your last newsletter and platform, and I think you are too damn moderate -- kinda revisionist to boot!

In fact, if you don't do something important pretty soon, you will just become the VFW of the environmental movement -- a bunch of burnouts, licking their wounds and kibbetzing.

Actually, I'm thinking of starting a radical environmental, splinter group.

WATER CONTINUES TO RISE, NON-VIOLENT ACTION GOES ON

(December 19, 1980 - Friends of the River)

Two more people were arrested Thursday night (December 18) while waiting for the US Water and Power Resources Service to halt further innundation of the famous Stanislaus River Canyon. They were removed by officers of the Federal Protective Service of the General Services Administration at 6:00 PM closing time after the two stated that they would remain until the enlargement of the New Melones Reservoir stopped. They were then charged with trespassing and released. The two were Vince Haughey, 27, of Nevada City, and Alexander Gaguine, 30, of San Francisco.

Vince Haughey told WPRS Acting Regional Director Michael Catino: "It may be a small imposition for us to sit in your reception area, but it is a far greater imposition for WPRS to drown the Stanislaus Canyon." Catino had two cordial meetings with five people from the Water Reform Alliance, but declined to order a halt to the enlargement of the reservoir, saying the decision would have to come from higher levels in Washington. He forwarded the group's request to superiors.

Thursday night's arrests followed an identical protest of the filling on Wednesday during which Lisa Rowe, 26, of Coloma, and Patty McCleary, 25, of San Francisco, were arrested on the same charges and released (December 17). Ms. Rowe said, "America is my home, and I'm proud of it. But what is happening to the Stanislaus Canyon is happening all over the country, everywhere you turn."

After their release, Alexander Gaguine attempted to explain the actions this way:

"A whole community of people is being devastated. WPRS's actions are daily burying under water more and more of this beautiful green and gold canyon where thousands of people go. Unless citizens get President Carter to act immediately, Parrotts Ferry will probably never be seen again.

"We have more electricity and irrigation water than any society in history already, but what good are these if we take away people's sources of joy? The Stanislaus Canyon is a beautiful area with a river running through it which delights and inspires people. Anyone can come here.

"More than anyplace else, this is my home. People can't turn away when the places they love are being destroyed."

-- Submitted by Vince Haughey

The mosquito knows full well
Small as he is,
He's a beast of prey.
But after all
He only takes his belly full,
He doesn't put my blood in the bank.
-- D.H. Lawrence

SOME REFLECTIONS ON A REGIONAL FLOWER AND CREATIVE (DEFENSIVE LITTERING)

I propose that a concerted effort be mounted to have a western regional flower proclaimed. For this distinction, I nominate the used pamper. There are numerous symbolic and practical reasons for this nomination.

First, they are relatively abundant. They are the most obvious, contrasting roadside artifact in the creosotebush and shortgrass country from Tucson and El Paso, extending almost to Colorado Springs. This is especially true since a bounty was placed on aluminum beer cans. However, it is found locally where the socio/political microclimate is suitable. It adds critical organic matter and nutrients to the overgrazed soil, and it can spread exotic and highly communicable diseases...if and when it rains.

Most importantly, used pampers (generic) keep the beautiful people (the ultimate source of environmental degradation) at bay. They repel backpackers and their camp followers -- the promoters and developers -- as effectively as creosote bush repels grass. In fact, I have never seen a vacation condo within three miles of a used pamper. Proof positive that they repel condos, ski resorts, fern bars, Perrier water, and late model Saabs -- all the things which make a place "in" and therefore destroy it. Not to mention the widespread Earth Rape necessary to fuel this lifestyle.

No, used pampers are a reassuring sign that the most basic animal functions are close the surface and not hidden beneath $100.00 designer jeans. An acknowledgement that people shit as well as fuck...That diagonal siding and hot tubs belong to another world.

So, to keep the West the West...yea, even Azatlan, Azatlan, we should do everything in our power to encourage the propigation of the indicator species. Proposals to state legislatures will probably not be taken seriously, so I'm afraid we will have to take matters into our own hands. Follow the lead of a native son, whose roots in the Southwest go back to the time when the Athabascan tribes came down from the north and the Puebloans sought the refuge of the Rio Grande Valley. Follow the lead of an individual (El Loco) whose efforts to save his homeland from desecreation have lead him to plumb the depths of this racial memory to devise ultimate strategies to dispatch the Chamber of Commerce in its lair.

There are not enough used pampers in all of Albuquerque/El Paso/ Juarez for El Loco to save his home town from becoming another Aspen or Boulder, so he gets creative. The day before any three-day weekend, he can be found wadding up a month's worth of

(Continued, believe it or not)

El Paso Times and Albuquerque Journals, throwing the resultant wads into the back of his pickup. El Loco then drives like hell up and down the main approaches into town until the back of his truck is as clean as the blade of an adoberos shovel, spewing paper all over the countryside, plastering every oak and juniper bush and stop sign with highly unattractive cellulose.

Instant Third World! He claims he could make Nob Hill look like Resurrection City in one day -- definately a place where you wouldn't want to visit, let alone live. El Loco does get arrested from time to time (on his way to the dump), but he claims that fines are nothing compared to the property taxes he would be paying if the place was discovered by the beautiful people.

-- The Masked Mason

I am the Earth
I will lie beneath your feet
  as you climb your winding path,
I will offer support and firm-footing
You have but to look down --
  and be aware.

If you stumble and fall
  it will be upon me.
Bury your head in me
  for I will give you comfort.
Your tears will mingle with the rain,
  the hurt will be washed away.

When you rise and soar high above me
  I will revel in your flight.
Remember me below as you fly,
  and I will be there to receive you
When you land once again.

I have fire deep inside
  to warm you in winter.
I have water drawn from the springs of love
  to cool you in summer.

I am the Earth.
Walk gently upon me
  and I will serve your needs.
Sow seeds of love as you go
  and I will return the harvest to you
a thousand times a thousandfold.

-- Elizabeth Worley
12/80

Readers! Look at page 17 in the March, 1981, issue of Playboy for the EARTH FIRST! position on endangered species.

Dynamite! Toss out the kid gloves and sharpen the wrenches. Enough pussy-footing around. Means, Trudell, and the AIM folks are only telling us what the Hopi elders've been saying for years. Save the Earth to save ourselves. Ho, lets do it. Crazy Horse rides again!

-- Placerville, CO

Dear Editor:

Would Jerry Falwell call Easter Christmas? Of course not! Then what idiot in EARTH FIRST! would call the Spring Equinox the Spring Solstice?

-- Frothing,
in Salem, MA

Dear Frothing:

I confess. It was me. I hereby pledge never again to write an article for EF! after drinking three quarts of Tooth's Sheaf Stout.

-- Dave Foreman

APPALACHIAN SURVIVAL/ALASKA SURVIVAL JOIN EARTH FIRST!

Recently affiliating with EARTH FIRST!, Appalachian Survival is a small band of mountain residents dedicated to the basics -- and survival is about as basic as you can get. The blinding truth of this revelation came to two of our founders as they meditated in the top of a couple of spruce trees near Alaska's Fortymile River. There are those who prefer the lotus position, or perhaps a hot tub, for serious meditation. However, the presence of a grizzly, swatting the trunk within inches of one's boot heel, forms a potent argument for the elevated meditation perch in wilderness situations.

Having survived the grizzly encounter, Appalachian Survival was formed to fight for the bare survival of the black bear and its wilderness range on Virginia's George Washington National Forest. Within months of the RARE II nonwilderness allocations, the GWNF approved a plan to construct ten miles of permanent road across the Crawford Mountain roadless area which is rated one of the three key ranges left for the state's dwindling bear population. In the course of an administrative appeal filed by conservationists, the GWNF was forced to revise the original positive B/C ratio to reveal that the road plan and intensive logging will produce only nineteen cents in timber receipts for every dollar in project costs. A FOI request produced documents showing the bear population could be reduced by fifty percent. Despite the GWNF's failure to comply with its own regulations, the Chief denied the appeal. Now AS is seeking other means for defending Crawford Mountain's bear range from the bulldozers.

Among actions in the planning stages are:
(1) The First Annual Crawford Mountain Camp-in is planned to build support for the mountain and publicize this boondoggle. We will pitch our tents in the road route to block the bulldozers. Among problems yet to be solved is constructing a Cat-proof tent that can be erected on the ninety-degree slopes of the road route.

(2) AS is preparing to bid for the road construction contract. Upon receiving the $461,298 from the US Treasury that is budgeted for the road construction, we will return nineteen cents on the dollar to the GWNF. The remaining eighty-one cents (amounting to $373,651.00) will be used for improving forestry practices on low-lying private lands where more timber can be produced with fewer environmental impacts -- meanwhile preserving the Appalachian wilderness. (Any leftover funds will be devoted to bringing back the elk, bison, panthers, timber wolves, and giant sloths that once graced the Southern Appalachians and have been missing for far too long.)

(3) In addition to the EARTH FIRST! call for RARE II Alternative J (which could save the taxpayer millions of dollars on the GWNF alone), AS supports a wilderness/black bear preserve for all GWNF lands above the 2,500-foot contour. With no clearcutting allowed, the preservation of elevated meditation perches will be assured.
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If members of AS are not behind bars by June, the Alaska arm of AS (Alaska Survival) will offer a seven hundred-mile raft trip down the upper Yukon. Views of the Yukon-Charley Rivers Preserve and the Yukon Flast NWR are promised, and, with a little luck, some more intensive meditation on the ways of grizzlies may be provided.

Alaska Survival is dedicated to preserving the Susitna's salmon runs for the sustenance of bears and humans. We oppose all threats to this resource -- especially the Susitna hydropower scheme.

Send suggestions, inquiries, and money to Appalachian Survival at Box 111A, Deerfield, VA 24432. After June, Alaska Survival can be reached through Paul Bratton, General Delivery, Talketna, AK 99676.

> The process now taking place under Reagan is more hopeful even as it appears more bleak. For now, no more appearance of success for the Earth. Now, only alienation. And from that disenchantment will come strong forces for change. So I am less demoralized than energized. I see the work so tangible all around me. To free the spirit from the narrow range of "selves" available to us in a machine society. If there aren't contexts for ourselves, then we must create them.
>
> -- Colorado

EARTH FIRST! INFILTRATES THE HOLLOWED HALLS OF CONGRESS!

The EARTH FIRST! Circle continues to grow with the addition of three new members. Among them, we are proud to announce, is a well-known member of Congress! In order to protect this courageous person's identity, we will refer to her/him as Raul.

Upon acceptance into the Circle, Raul had this to say:

> "When I was first elected, I was an idealist, struggling within the bounds of political pragmatism to reform a system that I was soon to discover could not be reformed. The fact of the matter is, that neither Congress nor the President governs this nation. The influence of the giant multi-nations -- energy, timber, and mining amont them -- is far greater than the public believes. It is truly mind boggling. In fact, it goes beyond the connotation of the work "influence." It is THE unrecognized corporate state government of the US. The Earth is the only known habitable place in the entire universe. Lest we overcome the power of these hooligans, life as we know it will cease to exist."

Welcome, Raul. And welcome, to the other new Circle members:

Don Schwarzenneger - adobe mason from New Mexico

T.E. Aldaron - prominent biologist from the South, who, for professional reasons, must remain anonymous.

CIRCLE ESTABLISHES EARTH FIRST! COMMITTEES

Meeting over Molson's Ale and Susan's spaghetti in Breckenridge on January 25, the Circle established the following committees:

- Preserves - refine the EF! list of Preserves, work to advocate them, also work on wilderness preservation issues.
- Dams - develop a list of dams to be dismantled, agitate for such dismantling.
- Sagebrush - to combat the Sagebrush Ripoff and develop a bill to transfer state lands to the federal government.
- Publicity - develop a media list, coordinate press releases, media contacts, media events.
- Grazing - to combat overgrazing, develop a position supporting grazing by native species (bison, elk, pronghorn, etc.) instead of cattle and sheep.
- Paganism - develop an Earth based religion, worship, calendar, etc. (Chairman designated)
- Creation Myths - work to have various myths of creation taught in public schools along with genesis and evolution. (Chairman - Artful Goodtimes)
- Legal - provide legal advice to EF!, keep us out of jail, conduct suits.
- Energy - fight syn fuels, oil and gas, stripmining, uranium mining, power plants, etc.
- Mining - oppose mining on the public lands.
- ORVs - oppose use of off road vehicles.
- Round River Rendezvous - organize the RRR for the Fourth of July in Moab, Utah.
- Population - develop and advocate a position leading to major reduction in world and US population.
- Calendar - coordinate the EARTH FIRST! calendar for 1982.
- T-Shirts and Bumperstickers - coordinate manufacture and distribution of EF! bumberstickers and t-shirts, etc.

Each committee will be responsible for developing the EF! position on that issue, drafting proposed legislation or recommendations, writing fact sheets, and organizing support. If you would like to be involved with any of these committees or be a coordinator for any, please fill out the questionnaire in this newsletter. We also are interested in suggestions for additional committees. (Committees will meet at the Spring Equinox Celebration.)

I would like to be involved with the following EF! committees:

Preserves	_____	Energy	_____
Dams	_____	Mining	_____
Sagebrush	_____	ORVs	_____
Publicity	_____	Round River Rend.	_____
Grazing	_____	Population	_____
Paganism	_____	Calendar	_____
Creation Myths	_____	T-Shirts, etc.	_____
Legal	_____	Other (indicate)	_____

_____EF! may discretely give my name to other EF! members in my area.
_____I would like to be a contact for EF! in my area.
_____My membership in EF! must be kept secret.
_____Use the following alias for me in EF!:_____

"The White people never cared for land or deer or bear. When we Indians kill meat, we eat it all up. When we dig roots we make little holes. When we built houses, we make little holes. When we burn grass for grasshoppers, we don't ruin things. We shake down acorns and pinenuts. We don't chop down the trees. We only use dead wood. But the White people plow up the ground, pull down the trees, kill everything. The tree says, 'Don't. I am sore. Don't hurt me.' But they chop it down and cut it up. The spirit of the land hates them. The Indians never hurt anything, but the White people destroy all. They blast rocks and scatter them on the ground. The rock says, 'Don't. You are hurting me.' But the White people pay no attention. When the Indians use rocks, they take little round ones for their cooking... How can the spirit of the earth like the White man?... Everywhere the White man has touched it, it is sore.

-- from the Wintu

EARTH FIRST!
P.O. Box 536
Breckenridge, CO 80424

TO: [redacted]